

40¢ 89
JUNE
02449

MARVEL® COMICS GROUP



©1980 MARVEL COMICS GROUP

SHANG-CHI VS. FU MANCHU! MASTER OF KUNG FU

I SWORE
TO OPPOSE YOU,
DENOUNCE YOU,
DESTROY YOU!

NOW, MY
FATHER, YOU
DIE!



THE DRAGONS!

"Call me Shang-Chi, as my **father** did, when he raised me in the vacuum of his Honan, China retreat. I learned many things from my father: that my name means 'The Rising and Advancing of a Spirit,' and that my body could be forged into a living weapon through the discipline of kung fu. Since then, I have learned that my father is **Dr. Fu Manchu**, the most insidiously evil man on Earth... and that to **honor** him would bring nothing but **dishonor** to the spirit of my **name**."

Stan Lee
PRESENTS:

MASTER OF KUNG FU!

Featuring supporting characters created by SAX ROHMER

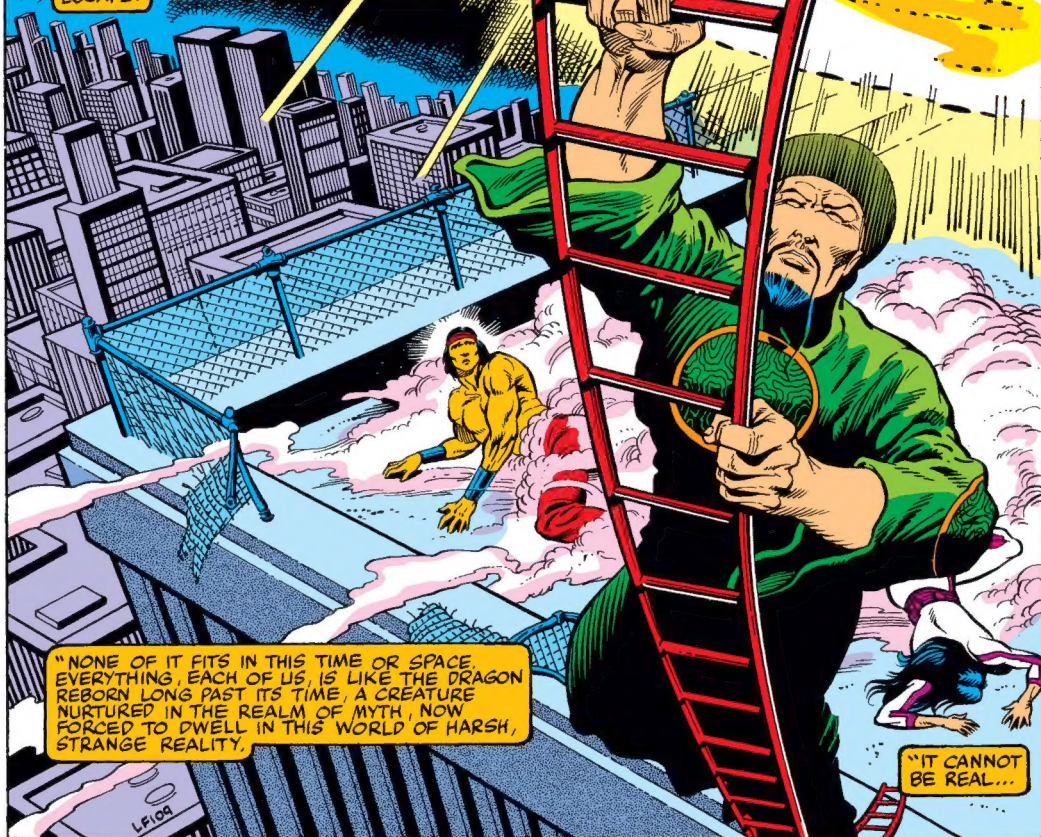
WARRIORS OF THE GOLDEN DAWN

PART
7

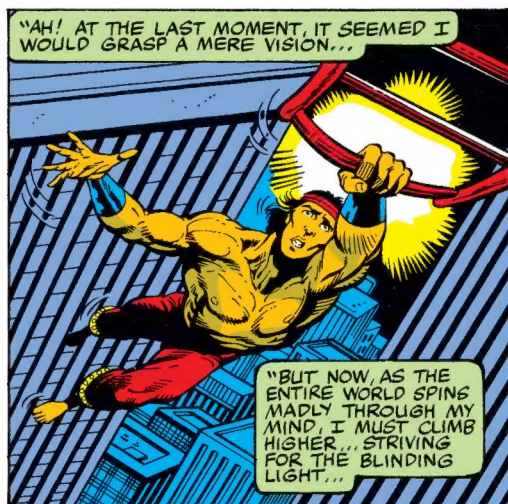
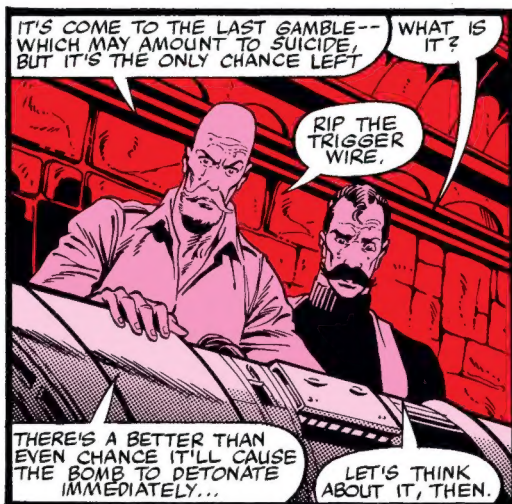
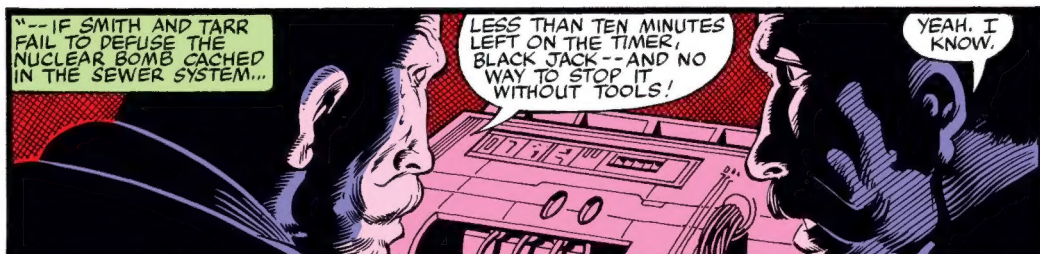


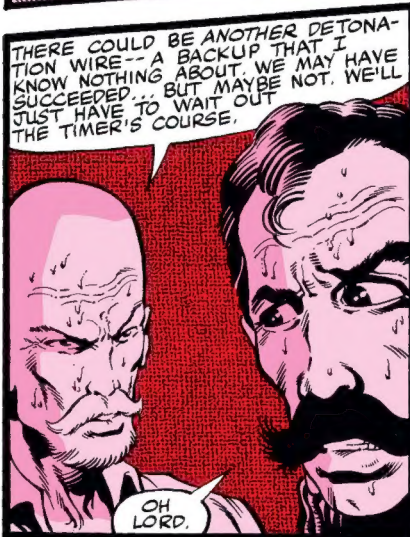
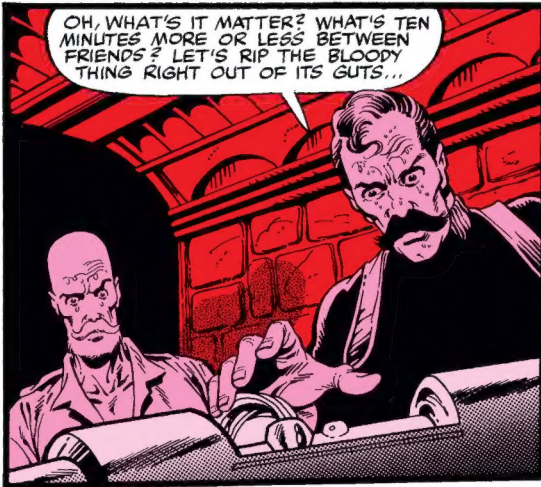
THE DRAGONS

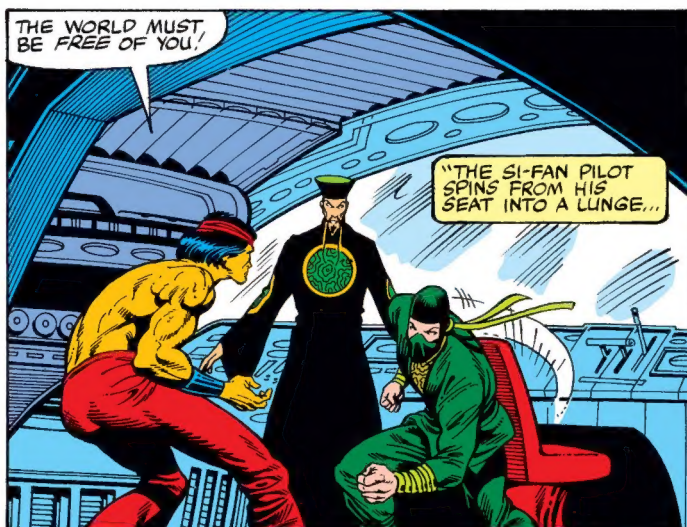
"ATOP THE WORLD TRADE CENTER IN NEW YORK: WE HAVE WON, LEIKO AND I, ONLY TO LOSE. WE HAVE CONQUERED MY FATHER'S MOST INVINCIBLE SURROGATES, ONLY TO FALL IN THE DIZZYING SPELL OF MIMOSA GAS... WATCHING AS FU MANCHU, THE ONLY TRUE WINNER, MAKES HIS ESCAPE."

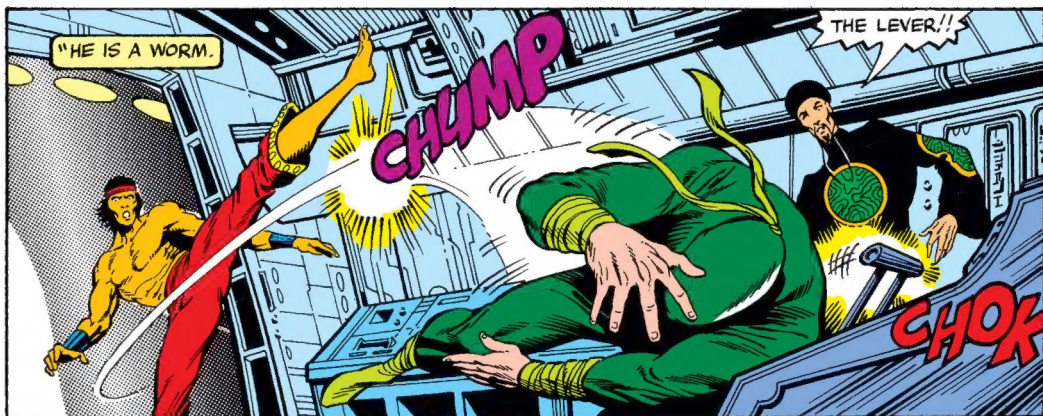


DOUG MOENCH / MIKE ZECK / GENE DAY / NOVAK / BOB SHAREN / JIM SALICRUP / JIM SHOOTER
WRITER / ARTIST / INKER / LETTERER / COLORIST / EDITOR / EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

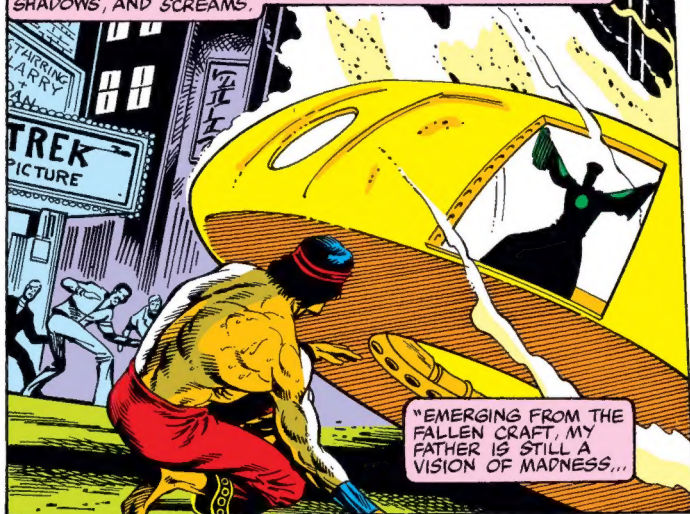








"I RISE, SHAKEN, SURROUNDED BY BRIGHT LIGHTS, RUNNING SHADOWS, AND SCREAMS."



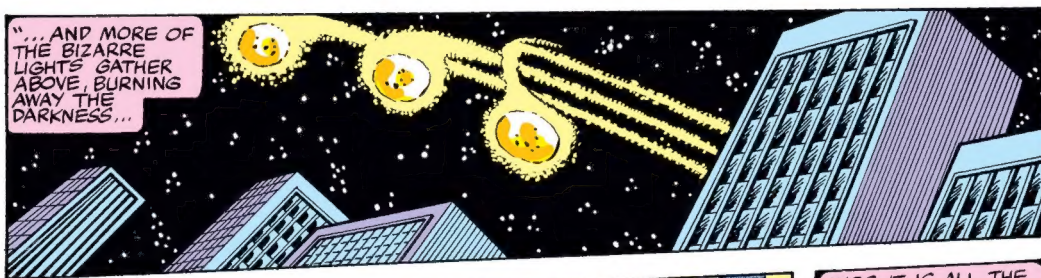
"EMERGING FROM THE FALLEN CRAFT, MY FATHER IS STILL A VISION OF MADNESS..."

"HE BECKONS TO THE DARK SKIES..."

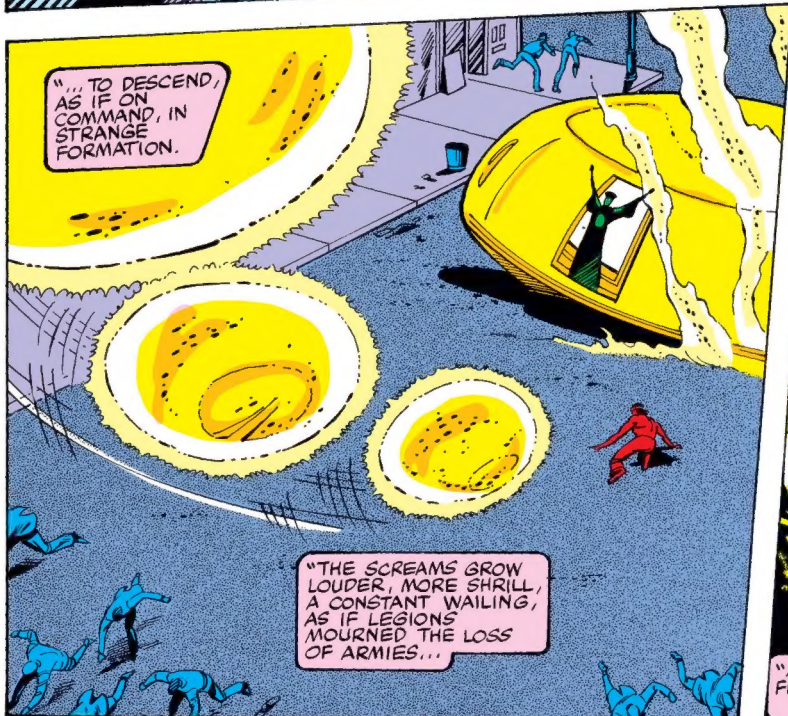


ILLUMINATI ORIENTIS!

"...AND MORE OF THE BIZARRE LIGHTS GATHER ABOVE, BURNING AWAY THE DARKNESS..."



"...TO DESCEND, AS IF ON COMMAND, IN STRANGE FORMATION."

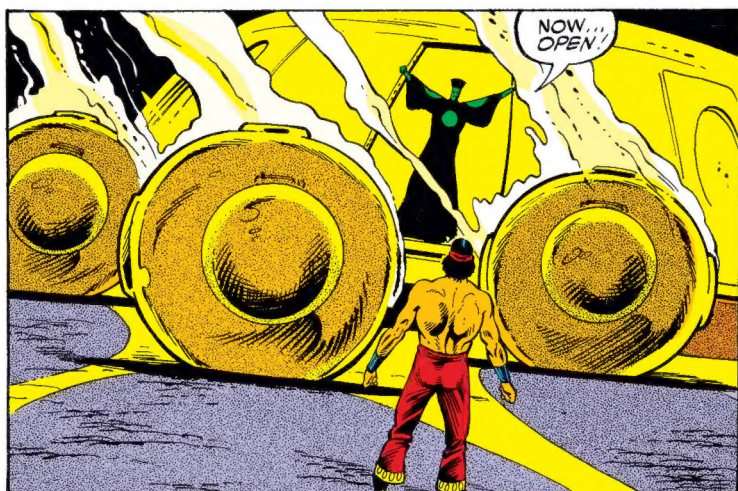
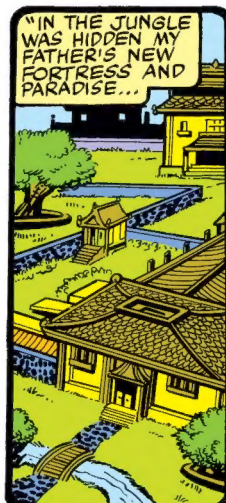
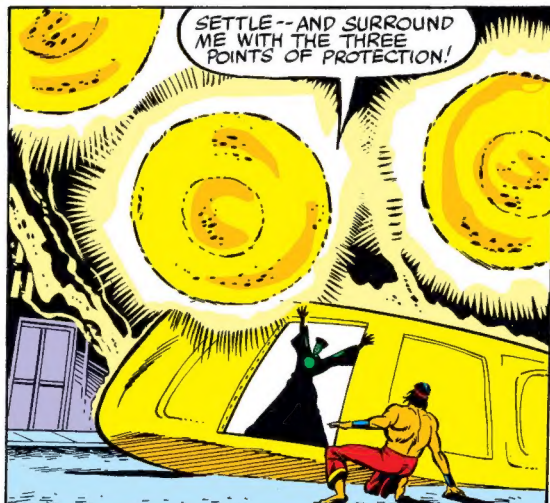


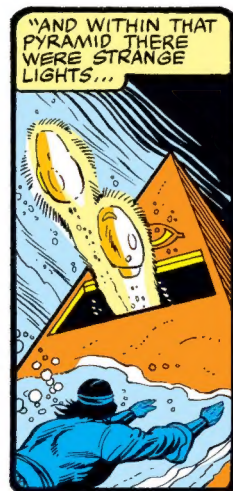
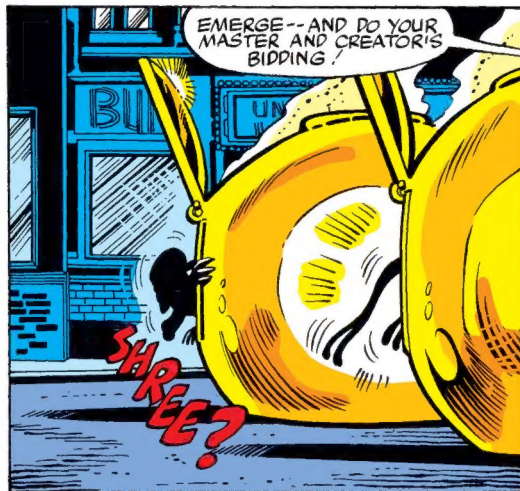
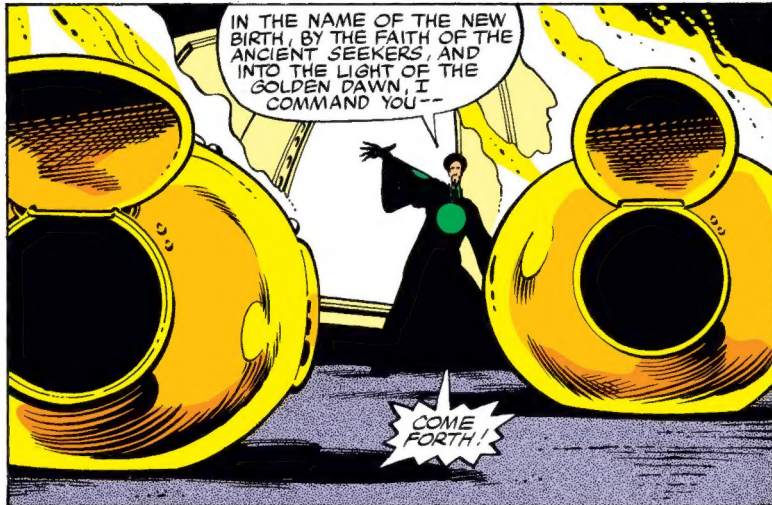
"THE SCREAMS GROW LOUDER, MORE SHRILL, A CONSTANT WAILING, AS IF LEGIONS MOURED THE LOSS OF ARMIES..."

"YES, IT IS ALL THE STUFF OF DRAGONS, NONE OF IT FITTING IN THE HERE AND NOW, ALL OF IT SO STRANGE... SO ALIEN ... RECALLING THE RIDDLE POSED MANY DAYS PAST..."



"...THE RIDDLE WHOSE FINAL ANSWER HAS NEVER BEEN REVEALED..."

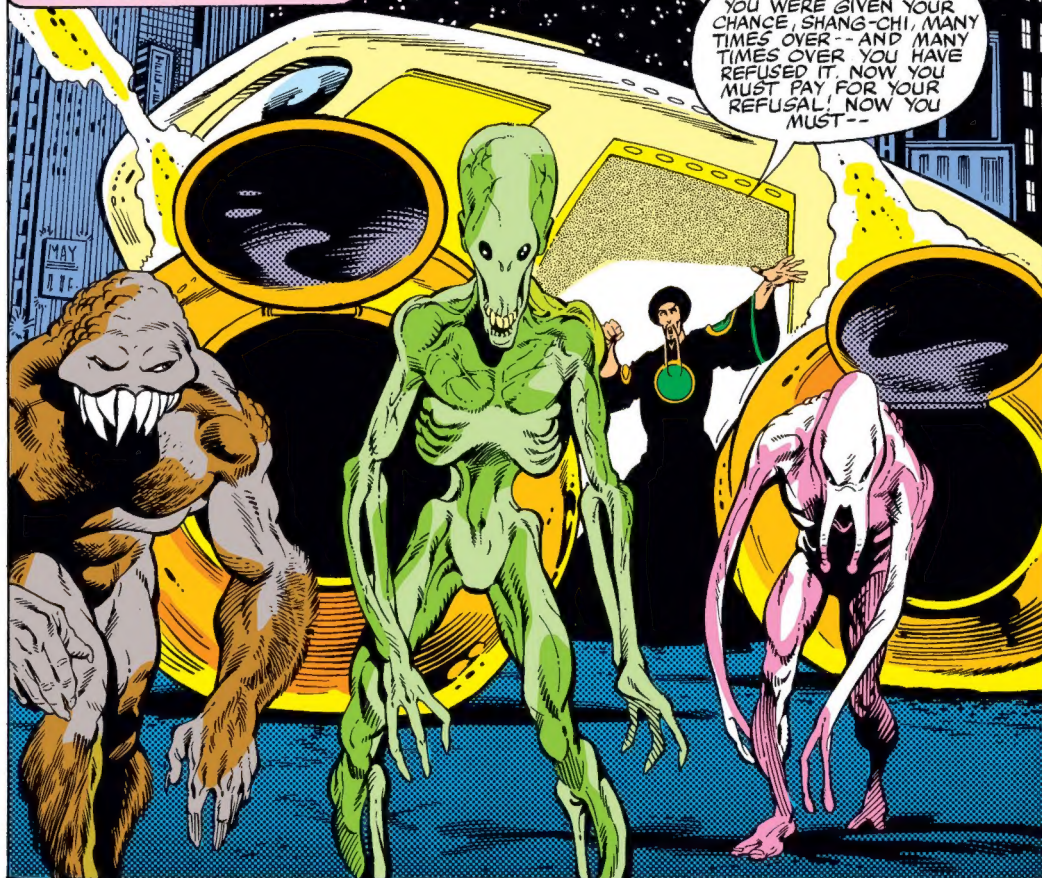




"BUT THE FINAL RIDDLE REMAINED: WHAT WAS WITHIN THE STRANGE OBJECTS-- WITHIN THE LIGHTS? THE ANSWER IS NOW UPON ME, MIMOSA VISION OF FU MANCHU'S HIDEOUS TRUTH, REVEALED IN THE GARISH LIGHTS OF TIMES SQUARE AS-- MADNESS."

SEE THEM, SHANG-CHI-- AND KNOW THEM FOR WHAT THEY ARE, MY SON! THEY ARE FASTER AND STRONGER THAN ANY OTHER COMPARABLE LIFE-FORM ON EARTH!

YOU WERE GIVEN YOUR CHANCE, SHANG-CHI, MANY TIMES OVER-- AND MANY TIMES OVER YOU HAVE REFUSED IT. NOW YOU MUST PAY FOR YOUR REFUSAL! NOW YOU MUST--

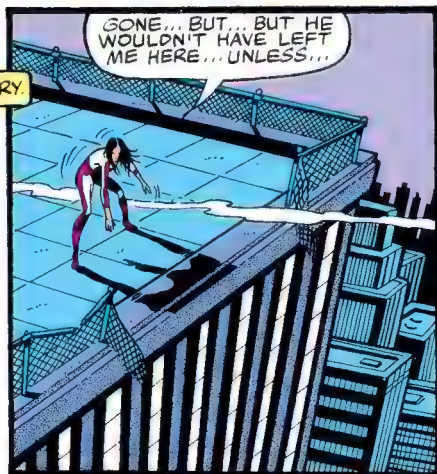
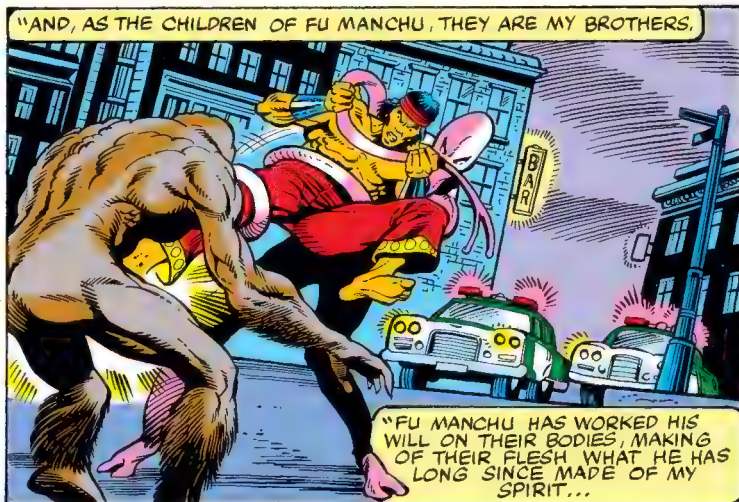
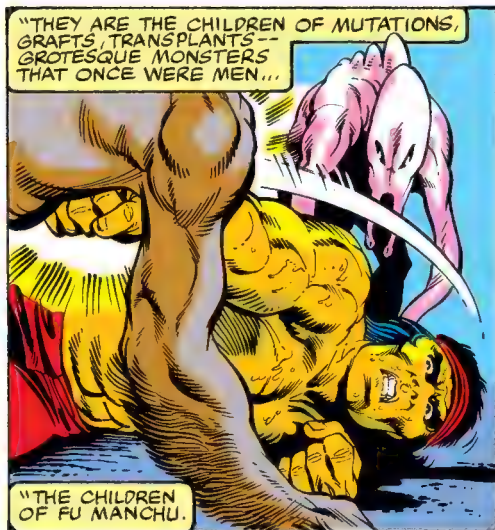
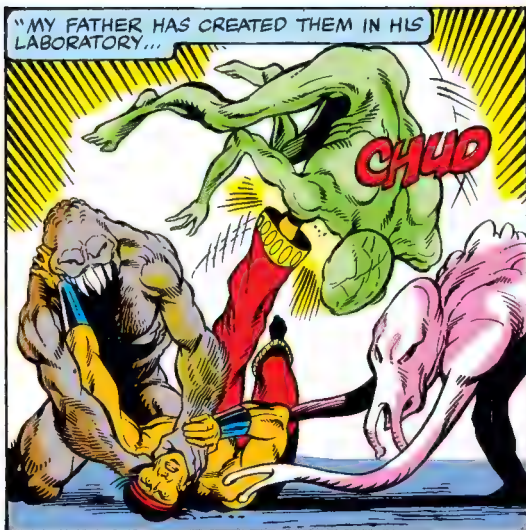


"NO! THEY ARE NOT MERE SPELLS CAST UPON MY MIND BY THE POWER OF MIMOSA ..."



"THEY ARE REAL!"

KRK



"BUT MY FATHER SPOKE THE TRUTH
ABOUT THEIR SPEED AND STRENGTH.
MOCKERIES, HELPLESS PAWNS, BROTHERS
--OR NOT-- THEY WILL SOON SLAY ME..."

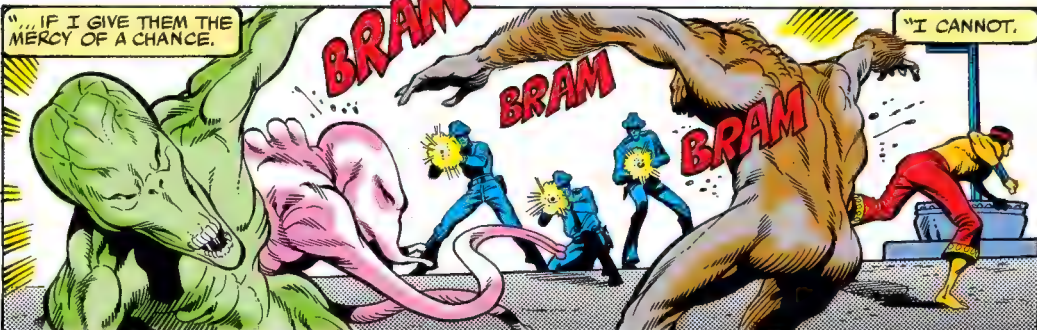


THE SQUARE'S BEEN
EVACUATED AND
CORDONED!

GOOD-- WAIT TILL
THAT KID GETS
OUTTA THE WAY--
THEN OPEN FIRE!



"... IF I GIVE THEM THE
MERCY OF A CHANCE.



"I CANNOT.

AND SO THEY FALL-- IN
THE GLORY OF SERVING
ME, AND HAVING SERVED
THEIR OWN PURPOSE
WELL.



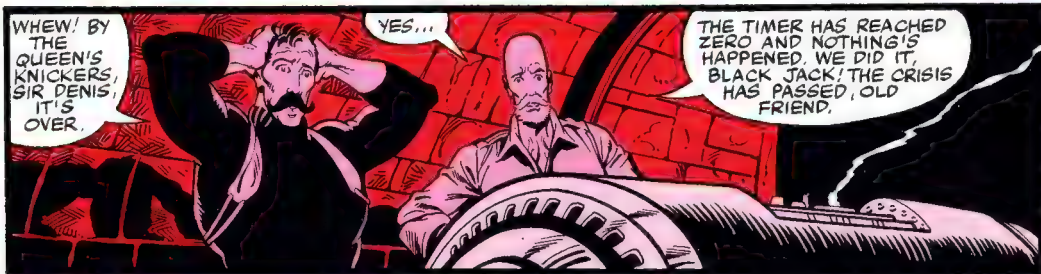
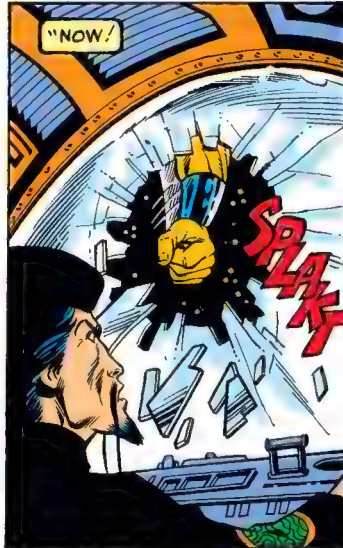
FOR THEY HAVE GIVEN
ME THE NECESSARY
TIME IN WHICH TO
ESCAPE...

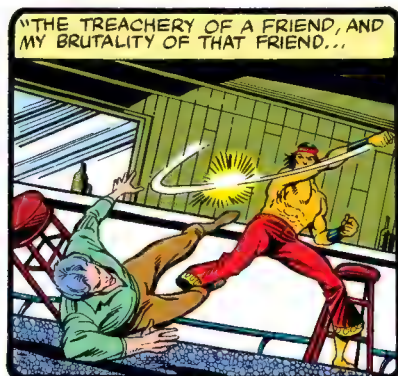
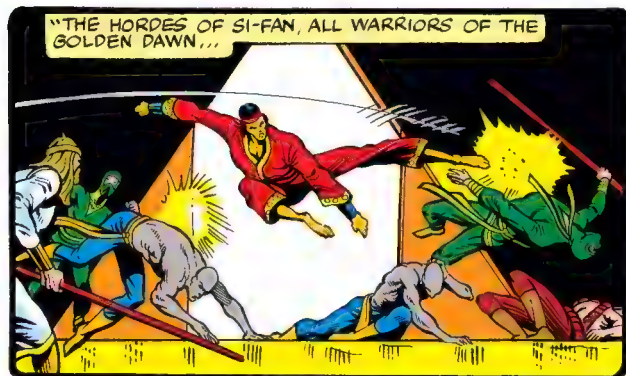
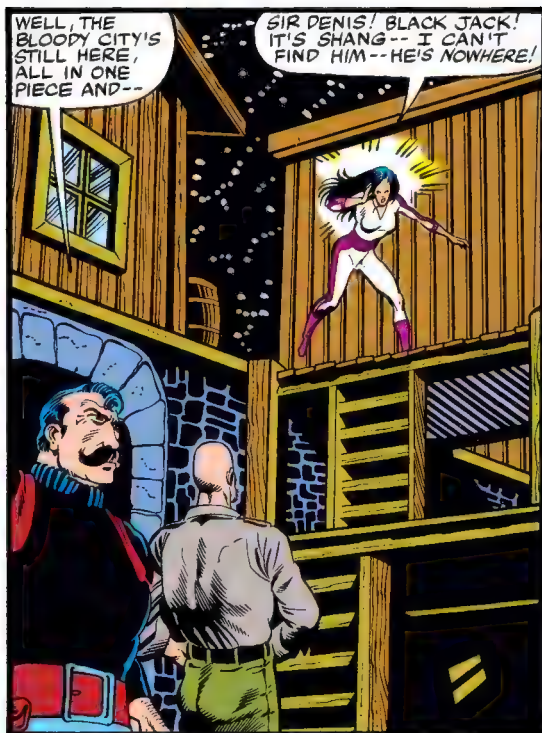


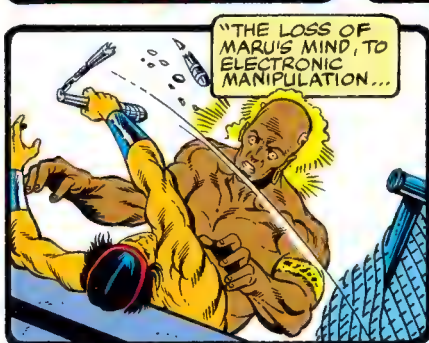
AND YET,
THERE IS SO
LITTLE TIME
REMAINING...

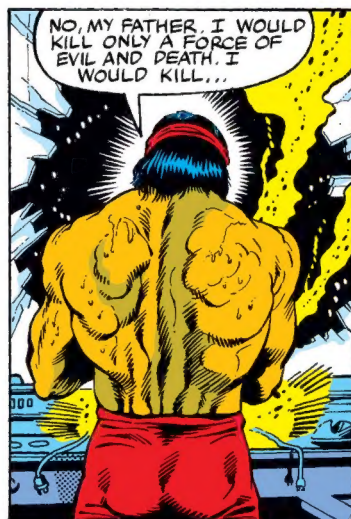
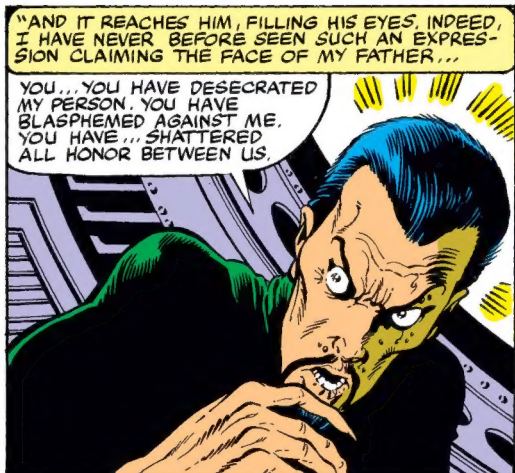


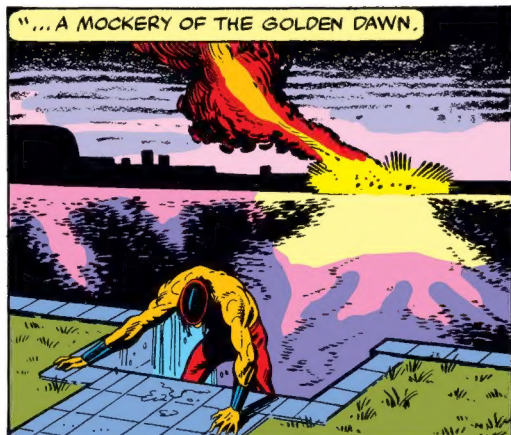
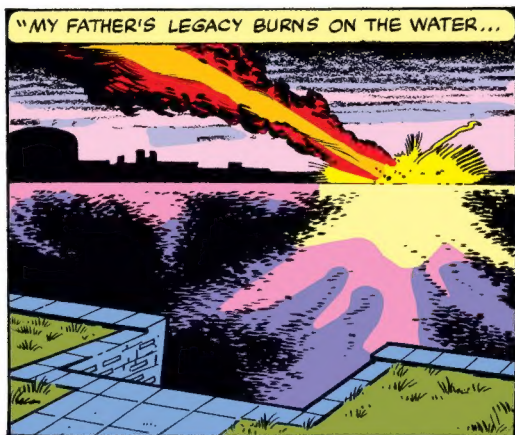
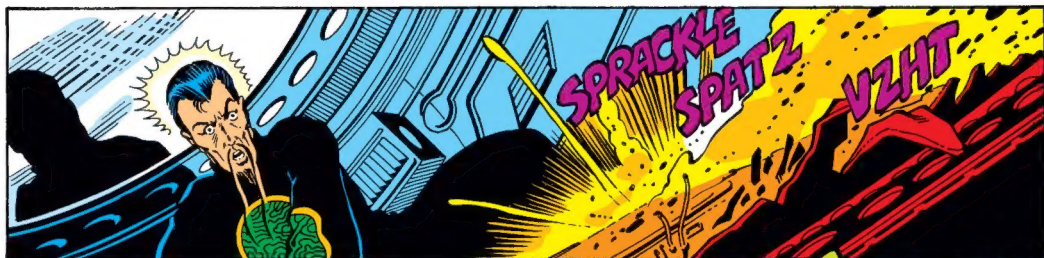
I...
I STILL
CAN'T
B-BELIEVE
IT.











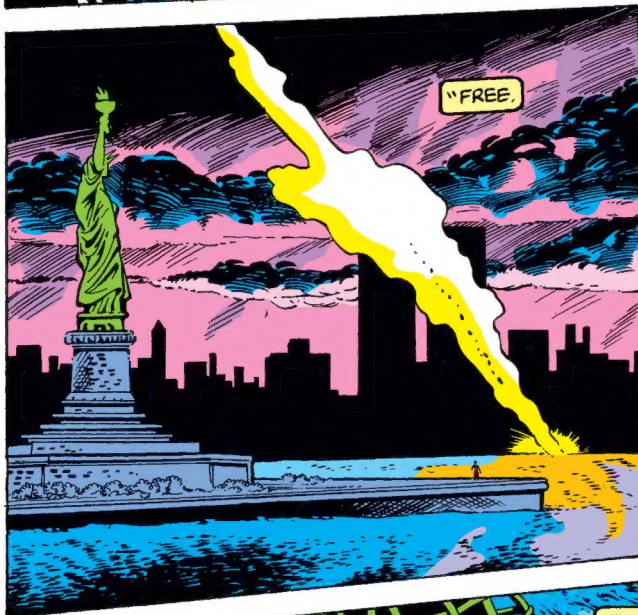
"AND SO THE GAME ENDS WITH THE PLAYERS SCATTERED, THE RULES STILL UNKNOWN, THE GOAL A QUESTION..."



"...THE WINNERS AND LOSERS ALL WEARING THE SAME DEAD MASK OF CONFUSION..."



"BUT AT LEAST... AT LEAST... THE WORLD IS FREE OF MY FATHER... FREE OF HIM FOREVER..."



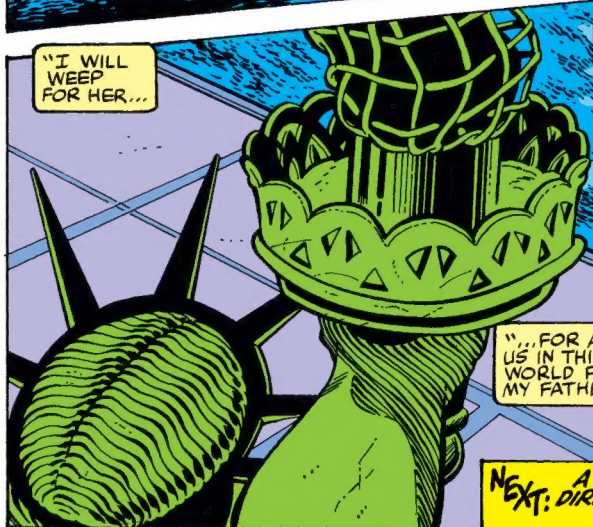
"FREE..."

"YES... BUT SHE MOCKS ME, MOCKS MY DEED... PERHAPS, MOCKS HER OWN EXISTENCE, A PRISONER IN METAL MASQUERADING AS A SYMBOL OF FREEDOM. SHE KNOWS, NONE OF US ARE FREE, ALL... ARE PRISONERS..."



"I WILL WEEP FOR HER..."

"...FOR MYSELF..."



"...FOR ALL OF US IN THIS WORLD FREE OF MY FATHER..."

Next: A NEW DIRECTION-- **TRIUMPHS OF THE FLESH!**

MISSIVES TO THE MASTER!

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP
575 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10022

JIM SALICRUP
EDITOR
BOB BUDIANSKY
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dear Doug,

Waking up this morning with my radio-alarm set on good ol' Rock 'n Roll, the Explanation for Shang-Chi's recent slim slow slide into adolescent angst hit me with the full force of Cosmic Revelation! As the music played, my mind flew back to the times when he and Leiko measured their lives and loves by the rhythmic rumours of Fleetwood Mac — and oh! how gracefully the body dances, the spirit advances, when taken by that tune!

But, as all songs must, it ended too soon, its needle stuck in the run-out groove; and when that Cosmic Segue came down at last, Shang-Chi was sitting in his room, quoting the words of Mick Jagger. Does this mean he now has sympathy for the Devil Doctor? Will Fleetwood Mac go disco? Stay tuned!

Cat Yronwode
c/o The Hotel California
Back in the U.S.A.

Having listened to *Tusk* for the first time last Friday (the very first day of its release, need we mention?), Doug can answer at least one of your burning questions, Cat: No, Fleetwood Mac have decided *not* to go disco, and with a vengeance.

Incidentally, Chi's favorite track is "Sara" by Nicks ("...in the sea of love, where everyone would love to drown..."), while Leiko is partial to several of the McVie tracks. Doug himself wishes the Buckingham tracks had featured the other members of the band for greater integration and modulation; indeed, the discrete nature of the entire LP reminds him of the latter days of the Beatles and he fears further fragmentation and imminent breakup. Tarr, of course, couldn't care less.

— Fleetwood Moench

Dear Masters,

"Breathless" was truly an appropriate title for the latest chapter in Shang-Chi's life since, as a reader, I was left breathless myself. The pace was nonstop all the way with Tarr, Reston, and Chi having nary a moment to think, let alone breathe comfortably, and I was swept along in the process.

But perhaps the weirdest thing about this story — and it's something I'm not sure I can adequately explain — was the feeling of temporal dislocation. Not quite a feeling of *deja vu*, it nevertheless was a feeling that this tale had been put together many years earlier and was just now seeing the light of day. It seemed to be the product of a time less oriented to fabrication and production-line mentality, offering both a simplicity of design and an enhancement of detail. Something in the artwork, something in the story itself, reeked of a simpler and more engrossing period. A time of care, compassion, beauty, elegance, but also a time of horror, suffering, and strife. But perhaps I'm just rambling. The feeling is difficult to express — a simultaneous sensation of being both out of place but also completely appropriate — a unique feeling. Perhaps someday I'll be able to express it better. But whatever it was, it felt good. I thank you.

Tad Ray Christiansen
11486 Victory Blvd.
North Hollywood, CA 91601

You're welcome, Tad. While "Breathless" was produced in the same sequence in which it was eventually published, your feeling of "temporal dislocation" is not a fluke but rather the precise reaction Doug and Mike were hoping to elicit. Indeed, "Breathless" is simply one further manifestation of Doug's personal credo for the handling of MOKF: As Soon As The Readers Start Thinking Of The Book As Being Predictable, Zap 'Em Right Between The Eyes With Something Totally Unexpected. Past examples of this credo would surely include: The Hackstabbler stories, the six-part alternating narration device employed in the first *Fu Manchu* opus, the Brynocki zaniness, Chi's sudden interest in Western music, Tarr's love of Frazetta, Leiko's past, the "demythification" of Juliette, the recent "Spotlight on Fu Manchu" in #83, and — to a lesser extent — next issue.

— D.M.

Dear Sirs,

I have not read comicbooks with any regularity for more than two years now, but upon reading two recent issues of *MASTER OF KUNG FU* (#s 80 and 81), I'm thinking of becoming addicted again. Even though I was not familiar with the present direction of the book, I found myself extremely interested in the goings-on, and looking forward to picking up the back issues of what I've missed. Not only were the two books highly enjoyable in and of themselves, but it was also comforting to find that comics of this caliber are still being produced. I found Mike Zeck's art to be excellent, certainly an appropriate style for the book, but was not as impressed with Gene Day's inking. I'm not complaining, however; it's simply my opinion. In fact, it was not at all my intention to criticize in this letter, but rather to endorse the overall fine job Moench and Zeck are doing on MOKF. It was the dearth of books like this that caused me to stop reading and collecting comics the first time. I hope I will never be forced to stop again.

Alexander Garvin
62 Morton Street
New York, NY 10014

We'll drink to that, Alex. As frustrated as we sometimes are with the medium's median of quality, we've long been hooked on comics ourselves. And if you're looking for other current titles boasting that old-time "special magic," how about checking out the latest issue of *THOR*, to name just one. Roy Thomas is off to the races on a very exciting track. Try it!

— Doug Moench

NEXT ISSUE: Having already mentioned the "unexpected" nature of next month's offering, we'll only add that the tale — "Triumphs of the Flesh" — is the first of two parts conceived as an antidote for that old malady known as the Post-Opus Letdown. We've shifted gears into a slightly different direction with the hopes of giving Shang-Chi a shot in the arm. May it be salubrious to his — and your — health!



**AT LAST! MARVEL
PRESENTS AN ALL-NEW
WESTERN HERO
DESTINED TO BECOME
A LEGEND!
WHATEVER YOU DO--
DON'T MISS
MARVEL PREMIERE
54, FOR--**

**THE COMING OF
★ CALEB ★
HAMMER**